

April 29, 1975

PRESIDENT: Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I am glad that Senator Lewis spoke of our hearings that we held last summer. I was on the sub-committee with him and we had real good turn-outs at all of the meetings. I think that at Fairbury we had about 100 senior citizens appear and these people were real interested in our study as to what needs to be done and as Senator Lewis said, transportation was the number one problem, getting to the doctor, getting down to the grocery store to buy their groceries and going to the larger towns to buy clothing and other items that they can't find in the small towns. Last year this LB660 the Duis amendment, or rather the Duis bill, I had an amendment to allow the cities and counties to contract with this transportation service and some communities have taken advantage of this amendment, so I am glad to see that Senator Fowler has this bill to enlarge on this and to provide state funding. I wonder if Senator Fowler would yield to a question. Senator Fowler, this fiscal impact, is that what your amendment.....or is that before the amendment is placed on with the rural community being included?

SENATOR FOWLER: Well, the amendment, the amended bill expands the program into handibus type programs from just before the amendment the program had only been a 10¢ ride on regularly scheduled buses, in communities and actually just in the community of Omaha. The bill now has two things, it continues the 10¢ ride but it expands it to other communities but then also make state money available for the programs like the handibus programs which is the major component of rural transportation, so it is now a state wide program along those two transportation system.

SENATOR MARESH: This funding will be provided from general fund? There won't be any department of roads funds used in this will there?

SENATOR FOWLER: No, this is just General Fund money that will be used.

SENATOR MARESH: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: I have lights on from Senator Murphy and Senator Savage, but it is now time to recess. Debate will continue after we come back to order.

CLERK: I move we recess until 1:30. Signed Senator Cal Carsten.

PRESIDENT: The question is shall we be in recess until 1:30. All those in favor say aye, those contrary say nay. We are recessed until 1:30.